

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SS-15 INR-07 /033 W

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P 101333Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1917

S E C R E T BRIDGETOWN 2441

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINR, GJ

SUBJ:POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE DURING OR AFTER THE DECEMBER 7, 1976
GRENADA ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 298845

1. A COMMENT OR SO MAY BE IN ORDER RE REFTEL. LATEST INFO (DECEMBER 9) INDICATES ELECTION RESULTS WERE CLOSE BUT OUTCOME IS FAIRLY CERTAIN, WITH 9 GULP AND 6 PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE SEATS. SINCE CONTROL OF GOVT IN THESE ISLANDS TRANSCENDS EVERYTHING ELSE, DEFEAT IS ACCEPTED VERY GRUDGINGLY, AND, AT TIMES, AFTER SOME COERCION. BOTH PM GAIRY'S SUPPORTERS, AND THEIR OPPONENTS, ARE EQUALLY PRONE TO VIOLENCE. VIOLENCE HOWEVER, SHOULD BE DISTINGUISHED FROM INSURRECTION OR REVOLUTION, SINCE A LONG TRADITION OF ENGLISH DEMOCRACY ACTS AS A MODERATING INFLUENCE HERE. LASTLY, IT IS NOT LIMITED TO THE PARTY IN POWER.

2. THE STATEMENT THAT MANY GRENADIANS BELIEVE THE RUMOR THAT USG SUPPORTS GAIRY'S ELECTION, BASED ON THE "COMMON KNOWLEDGE OF AN ALLEGED PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP OF U.S. AMBASSADOR THEODORE BRITTON WITH GAIRY" PROBABLY RANKS AMONG THE MOST IDIOTIC AND RIDUCULOUS ONE EVER HEARD IN THIS REASON, AND, UNDERMINES THE "CARIBBEAN POLITICAL OBSERVER'S" CREDIBILITY. SINCE THE US AMBASSADOR TO GRENADA HAS NOT SET FOOT IN GRENADA SINCE 06:45 ON FEBRUARY 8, AND ONLY SAW PM GAIRY TWICE IN NEW YORK CITY,

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WITHIN A 24 HOUR PERIOD (OCT. 17-18), AT A RECEPTION,

AND AT BREAKFAST, IT WOULD TAKE A FAIRLY OBTUSE MIND TO
EQUATE "CORRECT AND PROPER RELATIONS" WITH "PERSONAL
FRIENDSHIP."

3. ACCORDING TO CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY INFORMANT, NJM'S
BISHOP HAS STATED HE MAY TAKE COURT ACTION TO SET ASIDE
CERTAIN ELECTION RESULTS. BEYOND THAT, HE MAY CONSIDER
STREET PROTESTS.
BRITTON

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NNN

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